

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club

Cut Silver Pieces



from Massachusetts

Fall 2001

Volume 9 Number 3

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or to

Fall, 2001

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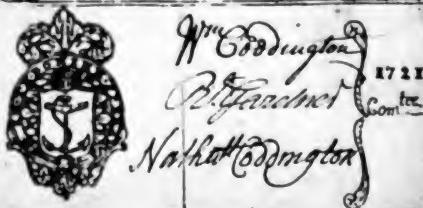
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1970 MHS, 1980 Garrett, 1984 Picker, 1987 Norweb,

1991 Picker, 1996 Eliasberg.

The fully illustrated auction catalogue will be mailed to subscribers in December and will be posted on our web site shortly thereafter.

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President's Message

By Ray Williams

Here we are with our seventh convention at hand. Looking back to the first C4 convention, I recall the risk that was taken by John Griffee, to be the major consignor to our first auction. I remember gambling a good part of our small treasury on the success of that convention. Would we get enough dealers? Would the collectors show? Would there be enough serious bidders in attendance? The club officers, dealers, consignors, auction house and members all took the chance, and look where we are today!

The C4 convention is the premier event of the year for us. This year's auction is expected to have over 500 quality lots. Eric Newman is scheduled to be the featured speaker at the educational forum on Friday night. Exhibits are lined up. Dealers are registered.

Collectors have made their reservations. There's an atmosphere of excitement in the colonial e-groups. "Let the games begin..." I'm ready!

The field of "colonial" numismatics is strong and active. Research is progressing in many areas. Information is being shared and discussed over the Internet. New references should be ready for publication soon. Collectors of colonials (Colonialists?) have never had so much information available to them, and more is on the way.

On a more somber note, since the September 11th tragedy, I've been thinking about priorities. What we are doing in this hobby is not of life and death importance. I (we) need to keep this hobby in its proper perspective. Collecting and research activities should be fun. FUN is the bottom line. FUN is what we need after a hard day at work, when the world seems to be closing in, when the dog needs to be walked and you can't get back to sleep, when the snow is falling and you fire up a fresh pot of coffee and clear the table... To me, C4 is a group of guys (and gals) who have come together to share our interests. I look at other areas of the hobby and wonder why those people even bother to collect. The informal casual atmosphere is what I hope C4 can maintain through the decades. The convention, along with meetings at EAC and the summer ANA, is where friends with like interests in colonials meet. If you're attending this convention for the first time, stop by the C4 table and meet some officers and get acquainted with others of similar interests. If you'd prefer your anonymity, you can have that too.

I need to e-mail this letter so Angel can meet his publication deadline. Hope to see as many of you as possible in Boston, and remember, FUN is the bottom line...



Last Dues Notice for 2001

Many of you have already paid your dues for 2001. However, please check the date on your label to ensure this. If you see a "00" after

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your name, your dues for this year are pending. Please mail your check to me payable to C4. See details for dues on page 1.



C4 Items for Sale

The Copper Coins of Vermont

And Those Bearing The Vermont Name

by Tony Carlotto

Regular edition price \$50 (add \$3 for shipping)

Send orders to:

John Lorenzo



C4 Convention Items for Sale

Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50

Hardbound Fifth C4 Convention Catalogues \$50/ea.

Call or write Ray Williams if you are interested for availability.

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Ray, payable to C4, at the address below.

Ray Williams



The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to

Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact Ray Williams.

The Fugio plates are sold out!



C4 Convention- Nov 8-11, 2001

This year's convention will again be held in Boston at the Radisson Hotel in conjunction with the Bay State Coin Show.

McCawley and Grellman will hold another great auction on Saturday night. In addition, most colonial dealers will be present. Friday and Saturday will also have a number of educational activities.

Make your plans now. For reservations at the Radisson call the hotel at 617-482-1800 and ask for the Bay State Show room rates.



Proposed Amendments to the By-laws of the Colonial Coin Collector's Club, Inc.

The following amendments were discussed at last year's general meeting in Boston. They will be voted on at the coming general meeting during the C4 convention in November. If you will not be attending but have any comments, please contact Ray Williams.

Amendments

Art. 5, Section 5.3 should be amended to read as follows:

Section 5.3. Number. The elected officers of this Club shall be comprised of a President, Vice President, Regional Vice Presidents,

Art. 6, Section 6.1 should be amended to read as follows:

Section 6.1. Officers of the Board. The initial officers, other than the six Regional Vice Presidents and the Immediate Past President, shall be elected.

Art. 7, Section 7.2 should be amended to read as follows:

Section 7.2. Presidential Vacancy. Should the President be unable to perform his or her duties for whatever reason, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy until the next election of officers.

Art. 9, Section 9.3 should be amended to read as follows:

Section 9.3 President.

(h) The President shall occupy, after his or her term as President expires, the office of Immediate Past President until the term of the newly elected President expires.

Additions to Article 9

Section 9.7. Vice President. The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President or the inability of the President to act, perform the duties of the office of President and shall have such authority and perform such other duties as the Board of Trustees and/or the President shall prescribe or assign from time to time.

Section 9.8 Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall serve in the capacity as advisor for the newly elected officers.



The Story of the HMS Feversham, and Massachusetts Cut Silver Use in the Colonies

by Robert Martin and Angel Pietri

The story of the HMS Feversham sinking and recovery has been told before in numismatic publications. Recently, we were able to photograph several Massachusetts cut silver pieces recovered from this wreck. In addition, the recent Stack's sale of January 12, 1999 includes a large run of these silver pieces recovered from this English ship. They are very interesting for what they tell us about the circulation and acceptance of these pieces. Therefore, we felt the story was worth recounting in more detail and presented together with the photos of these pieces.

The HMS Feversham was a 372-ton, 36-gun British frigate stationed in New York City in September 1711. It was a fifth-rate frigate (first-rate being the largest and over 100-guns) measuring 107 feet in length and 28 feet in width. It sank off the coast of Nova Scotia on the night of October 7th, 1711 together with three accompanying transports (Neptune, Mary, and Joseph), never realizing that the military mission they were supposed to help had been cancelled.

During Queen Anne's War, a mixed force of British regulars and colonials captured the French fort at Port Royal on the northwestern coast of Nova Scotia. Following this in the spring of 1711, London sent Admiral Sir Hovendon Walker with a Fleet of Royal Navy ships and heavy transports to attempt an assault on Fortress Quebec. Boston's Captain Cyprian Southack, former commander of the Massachusetts Provence Galley, a legend for his knowledge of the New England waters, was named Chief Pilot of the Expedition. They were to sail up the St. Lawrence River to rendezvous outside of Quebec with a British and Colonial ground force marching north from Albany. Southack had never sailed up the St. Lawrence River, but was aware of its reputation as a very treacherous waterway. He convinced Walker to wait until late summer for the expedition to sail. He also suggested gathering additional supplies, more pilots

and some lighter frigates for the voyage. Walker's fleet was predominantly made up of great ships. On July 18th he requested from New York's Colonial Governor Robert Hunter the use of the two frigates, Leostoff and Feversham. The governor, while ready to comply, informed Walker that both had been sent south on a mission to obtain more supplies for the same expedition, and were not ready. Furthermore, he informed Walker that the Feversham was not but half-manned. On July 22nd, before sailing from Boston for Quebec, Walker wrote to Hunter "...I am sorry that Feversham is so ill mad'd; however, if she can any way be enabled to join me off Cape Breton, she will be of use...". He also left a letter with orders to Captain Robert Paxton of the Feversham stating "You are hereby required and directed to proceed with her Majesty's Ship under your Command off Cape Breton, and keep Cruizing off there till you are joined by me, or meet some of my Ships under my Command with Orders." The following week, Walker sailed off. Southack smartly stayed behind with the excuse that the Province Galley was still pending some repairs.

On August 14, Admiral Walker again wrote to New York this time from the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. He requested that the Feversham sail as soon as possible for Quebec carrying as much food as possible. On the night of August 23, the British fleet met with disaster. A combination of bad weather and confusion resulted in a loss of eight ships and more than nine hundred men. After five days spent in rescue attempts, Walker decided that the expedition had to be cancelled and withdrew to Spanish Harbor on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and from there sent most of his fleet east towards England. He sent word to New York, but it arrived on September 18th, one day after the Feversham sailed with 150 men aboard, many of whom were impressed merchant seamen, on its own journey to disaster.

At the time, Royal Navy ships were allowed to present requests for cash to the British Colonial offices for its expenses. They were supposed to render detailed expense reports on how the money was used, including prices paid. These requests were met with colonial currency issued at a weight ratio of 1.55 to 1 in relation to Sterling,

in a mixture of silver coinage current in the colonies at the time. On September 4, the purser of the Feversham presented a requisition signed by Captain Paxton to the New York Victualling Office of the British Treasury. He received '569 pounds, 12 shillings, 5 pence sterling for provisions'. On the same day that Walker's fleet was arriving in England, the Feversham ran into a storm of the coast of Nova Scotia. It was unable to clear Scatari Island as the storm surge and winds pushed it northward. The Feversham and its three accompanying transports were shipwrecked. Only 49 men from the Feversham survived, with Captain Paxton and his purser being among the dead.

Admiral Walker's career suffered a mortal blow. Though cleared of any wrongdoing, he was quietly dismissed from service in 1715.

The Coins of the Feversham Wreck

The coins recovered from this wreck are presumed to represent what was left over from the 569+ pounds received from the royal coffers after the purchase of supplies for the trip. The majority of over 1000 plus coins recovered are a mixture of Spanish-American silver of different denominations and different mints, reflecting the widely known fact that Spanish-American silver was the predominant coinage used for commerce in the British-American colonies. A much smaller percentage is made up of Dutch English and Spanish pieces. There were 22 plugged Latin American 4 and 8 reales pieces also, a fairly unique finding. The main surprise was that over 15 percent of the total, 201 pieces, were made up of Massachusetts silver. These included representatives of all four generations of shillings (NE-0.5%, Willow-3.5%, Oak-29.8% and Pine-66.2%) and its fractions. Rumor has it that more pieces from the wreck may actually exist that may surface over time. Of particular note are the cut pieces found. These were of weights very close to the value of pence, twopence, or multiples of these, and obviously used as change in commerce since they were held by the British Treasury in New York.

Following are four tables and photographs of a number of these cut

Massachusetts pieces that we were able to photograph or scan recently. The tables include their weight and equivalent value in pence when available. We have also included some pieces of Massachusetts's silver in the ANS collection and others we know of from other auction appearances and publications, or from personal communications. The weight on these "clippings" also match weights expected for pieces used in change rather than mere attempts to steal by deceitful clipping.

The combined total of Massachusetts pieces from the Feversham wreck includes a total of 201 specimens, of which 22 were cut fragments and 179 were "whole" pieces. Of great interest is that these 179 "whole" pieces are made up of largely underweight coins that had been mostly clipped around. Of these 179, a total of 132 (73.7%) were less than 90% of statutory weight for Massachusetts silver coins. Many of these were way below this 90% threshold we have selected, some dipping down to around 50% of statutory weight.

Significance of the Finding

This finding is significant for several reasons. It shows that Massachusetts silver, even many years after they had stopped making them, still played a significant role in colonial commerce. Over fifteen percent of the coins from this vessel were made up of Massachusetts silver. And this came from the New York area, not from New England. This also evidences a fairly wide acceptance and circulation. It would not be unreasonable to think that in New England they may have had an even greater role.

These coins underscore the importance of cut silver pieces used in circulation as change, at least in the early eighteenth century, even in the northern colonies where the practice was supposedly less popular. The sheared pieces come in several denomination-weights. Some come from the center of the original coin or show signs of more than one cut, suggesting that these pieces were cut and re-cut several times. This is further validated by the fact that the majority of other "whole" Massachusetts silver pieces at the time, if we

accept the Feversham coins as a valid sampling of the period, had been sheared in commerce through their existence. It could be argued that these coins lost a lot of weight through salt water corrosion while underwater. However, I doubt that this is the case since many of these coins show great detail and a remarkable degree of preservation. Being that most of them show a high percentage of the legends intact, it is very difficult to attribute a loss of over 10% in weight due to corrosion.

The Stack's cataloguer in the 1999 sale, in the description of lot 43, states that these pieces "show that their makers did not try to achieve exactly one half of the statutory weight when they cut a shilling in half to make two sixpence fragments out of it. If the fractions they made with their shears was heavy, as was the case in with several of the pieces offered here, it was not trimmed again to make a perfect weight sixpence. 'Close enough' seems to have been the watchword, not precision." We disagree with this statement. First of all, lot 43 shows three cuts in different angles. We do not feel anybody was trying to make a sixpence. In our opinion this piece was cut once for small change, and subsequently cut again. The same we feel applies to lot 40, 45 and 48 from that sale. On the other coins, Table 1, #1, and 4, and Table 2, #7, also reflect more than one cut. We also feel that the large variety in weight of most of these fractions corresponding to many different fractional weight suggests on the contrary that reasonable weight precision was important. In the more distant rural areas this may not have been the case always, but by and large we feel cut silver coins were handled by weight. Most likely, a good number of self-respecting merchants of the time had some kind of scale in their business to be able to handle these kinds of transactions. The design on the piece was important for the merchant and customer to know what grade of silver they were dealing with. It seems obvious that Mass. silver coins were highly regarded as having a fine silver content.

Of great significance is also the fact that these were coins from the British colonial treasury. These coins were not then and never were official or legal tender. The minting operation responsible for them was illegal. Yet the British authorities apparently found them

perfectly acceptable for their own use. At a time when specie was scarce any good silver was acceptable to all, and let the laws be damned. This was the same attitude colonial settlers and their British government seemed to have had about smuggling. Again we find events that do not back up the long held belief about the toughness of British laws on the colonies.

In summary, Massachusetts silver coins made in the 1650's and later played a fairly substantial part in colonial commerce as far south as New York. The British authorities readily accepted them. And cut fragments and heavily trimmed coins were widely used also, often making up a significant percentage of coins around in circulation. Many of the pieces we have seen advertised for sale as heavily clipped have generally been felt to be the result of dishonest merchants of the time and to be of lesser numismatic (market) value. Closer examination of these pieces could lead, at least in some cases, to a different conclusion. Many may have simply been clipped for change and are numismatically just as important as the full weight pieces.

Table 1: Cut Massachusetts silver pieces: Christie's sale

#	Source	Base coin	Weight	Equivalence
Christie's Sale- 2-7-89				
1	Feversham	O.T. N-14	43.6g	7-pence (+1.6)
2	Feversham	O.T. N-13	33.6g	6-pence (-2.4)
3	Feversham	N-6	36.6g	6-pence (+0.6)
4	Feversham	N-10	8.0g	Pence (+2)
5	Feversham	N-1	16.7g	3-pence (-1.3)
6	Feversham	O.T. N-14?	12.5g	2-pence (+0.5)

-Assumptions: Legal wt. 72 grains/shilling equals 6 grains/pence.

-No. in parenthesis under equivalence = difference from full fraction weight.

-O.T= Oak Tree; others are Pine Tree

Table 2: Cut Massachusetts silver pieces: Hoare Sales

Jeffrey Hoare Sale- 2-26-93				
7	Feversham	N-11	17.0g	3-pence (-1)
8	Feversham	O.T. N-12	14.7g	2-pence (+2.7)
9	Feversham	N-17	12g	2-pence
10	Feversham	N-10	11g	2-pence (-1)
11	Feversham	O.T. N-9	4.5g	Pence (-1.5g)

-Assumptions: Legal wt. 72 grains/shilling equals 6 grains/pence.

-No. in parenthesis under equivalence = difference from full fraction weight.

-O.T= Oak Tree; others are Pine Tree

Table 3: Cut Massachusetts silver pieces: Coin Galleries and Stack's

Coin Galleries Sale- 4-15-98				
12	Feversham	N-1	17.9g	3-pence (-0.1)
Stack's Americana Sale- 1-12-99				
13	Feversham	O.T. N-2	29.4g	5-pence (-0.6)
14	Feversham	N-1	41.5g	7-pence (-0.5)
15	Feversham	N-5	56.6g	9-pence (+2.6)
16	Feversham	N-5 or 6	38.1g	6-pence (+2.1)
17	Feversham	N-8	43.2g	7-pence (+1.2)
18	Feversham	N-10	6.9g	Pence (+0.9)
19	Feversham	N-10	14.9g	2-pence (+2.9)
20	Feversham	N-26	39.8g	6 or 7-pence
21	Feversham	Unknown	5.2g	Pence (-0.8)
22	Feversham	Unknown	11.6g	2-pence (-0.4)

-Assumptions: Legal wt. 72 grains/shilling equals 6 grains/pence.

-No. in parenthesis under equivalence = difference from full fraction weight.

-O.T= Oak Tree; others are Pine Tree

-No. 17 originally attributed as N-9

-No. 22 not a Ma. Piece; subsequently identified as an English cut sixpence

Fall, 2001
of Elizabeth I

Table 4: Cut Massachusetts silver pieces: Others

Other cut Ma. Silver coins non-Faversham				
23	ANS	N-1	38.0g	6-pence (+2)
24	ANS	N-6	11.6g	2-pence (-0.4)
25	C.G.2-23-77	N-6	??	
26	Ma. Hist. Soc.	O.T. N-1	48.8g	7-pence (+0.8)
27	Ma. Hist. Soc.	N-26	30.4g	5-pence (+0.4)
28	Leeward Islands	N-1	18.5g	3-pence (+0.5)
29	Ma. Dig		??	

-No.23 was donated to the ANS by Mr. George Spater

-No. 24 is from hoard of edge clippings in Bow Church, London; Noe plate #5 specimen c.

-No. 25 was lot #307

-No.26- Noe plate #5-specimen a

-No.27- Noe plate #5-specimen d

-No.28- Noe plate #5-specimen b; British Numismatic Journal, XV (1919-20)

-O.T= Oak Tree; others are Pine Tree

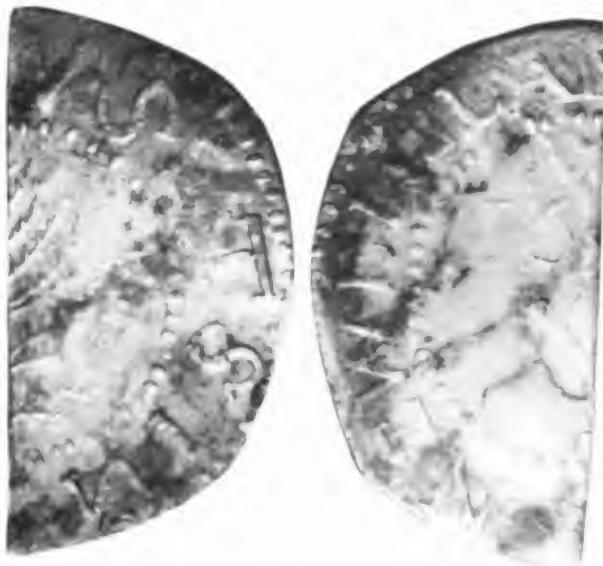


No. 1

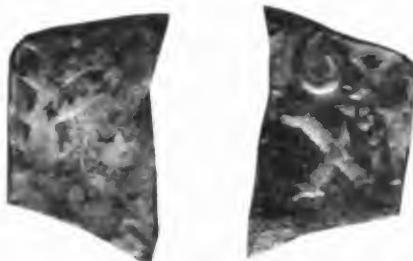


No. 2

Fall, 2001



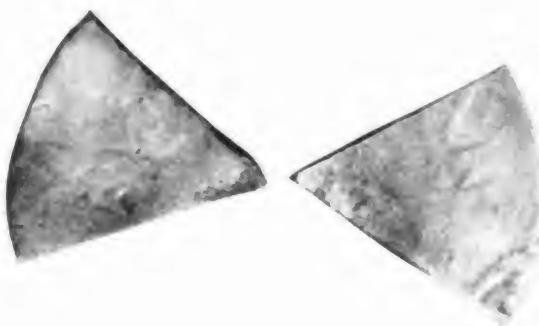
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No.4



No.5



No.6

Fall, 2001



No.7



No.8



No.9



No.10



No.11



No.12



No.13



No.14



No.15



No.16



No.17



No.18



No.19



No.20



No.23



No.24



No.29



A Guide to Collecting Latin American Pillar and Bust Coinage by Type

By Ed Sarrafian

During the colonial era the most widely circulated silver coins in what is now known as the United States were minted in Latin America. The countries, which minted these coins, were Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru.

Today, as the supply of colonial copper is drying up, the same thing is occurring with Latin American silver. The series offers a wide variety of types and will present a challenge, which will last many years. In general the commonest coin that will be found was minted in Mexico. The next commonest in order will be Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala, Chile, and Columbia, with the coinage of Columbia being the most difficult to locate.

While catalog prices remain the same as they did twenty years ago, it is very difficult to buy quality coins from knowledgeable dealers at these prices. The eight reales is usually the more expensive coin mainly due to the fact that many world coin collectors concentrate on collecting only crowns rather than the minor denominations (four through $\frac{1}{4}$ reales). Many, many minors that catalog for a fraction of what an eight reales catalog for are in reality much rarer. Latin American coins are usually found well worn, holed, cleaned, or damaged. Also keep in mind that many of these coins have been melted over the years.

Following will be a listing of types by country. It will contain comments regarding what grade a particular type is usually found in. As mentioned earlier, do not expect to find high-end pieces at catalog prices. For example, a Bolivia Charles III bust 1/2 real in XF catalogs for \$35 and a Peru Charles III bust $\frac{1}{2}$ real in XF catalogs for \$25. Should one come up for sale, expect to pay \$100 or more for it.

In grades good to very good the commoner type half, one, and two reales can be found for \$10 or less.

To put the rarity of some of these coins in perspective, it is easier to find a choice VF Pine Tree shilling, Voce Populi ½ penny, or a Connecticut copper (to name a few colonials) than it is to get a choice VF Guatemala Charles III bust G mint mark two reales which catalogs for \$80. There are many other instances in which a given coin is far rarer than what the catalog suggests.

The mintmark for each country is located next to the date on the pillar coinage and on the reverse after the word rex on the bust coinage.

Bolivia (Minted in Potosi, the mintmark is a monogrammed PTS)

Charles III Pillar (1767-70)

Eight reales-This coin is the second commonest denomination of the type. It is usually found in fine to vf-xf condition. XF or better specimens are scarce.

Four reales-A scarce type. Nice VF or better pieces are very difficult to find.

Two reales-The commonest denomination of the type. When found it usually grades vg to fine. XF or better pieces turn up occasionally and are in demand.

One real-A very scarce type. These are usually found holed and/or in low grade. VF or better coins are seldom seen.

Half real-Same comments as the one real.

Charles III Bust (1773-89)

Eight reales-This is a scarce type, but with patience a VF-XF piece can be found.

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Four reales-This is a scarce type as well which is usually found in fine condition. It will take some effort to find a nice VF or better piece.

Two reales-This is a common type...in lower grades that is. Nice VF-XF or better coins are very difficult to find.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the two reales. In addition the half real is often found holed.

Charles IV legend, bust of Charles III (1789-91)

These are called transitional coins. After Charles III died the new Charles IIII coins were minted. However, the new world did not have an image of him to use on the new coins. Hence, the bust of Charles III was used until a portrait of the new king arrived to the new world. All denominations are scarce. Settle for a coin in fine condition. VF or better coins are very difficult to find.

Charles III (1791-1809)

Eight reales-A common coin in all grades up to VF.

Four reales-The scarcest denomination of the type. VF and better coins are very difficult locate.

Two reales-A common coin in all grades up to fine. It will take time to find a nice XF or better specimen.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the two reales.

Quarter real-The second scarcest denomination of the type. Very difficult to find nice original pieces of this type.

Note: The 1791-92 pieces come with a larger bust than the later dated pieces. All denominations of this subtype are scarce in all grades.

Ferdinand VII (1808-25)

Eight reales-Same comments as the Charles III eight reales.

Four reales-This is a very underrated type and it is very difficult to find in fine or better.

Two reales-This is a common coin in all grades up to fine. It is very difficult to find in choice VF and better.

One real-Very common in all grades up to VF.

Half real- Very common in all grades up to XF.

Chile (Minted in Santiago, the mintmark is the letter s with a small o above the s)

The Ferdinand VI and Charles III pillar pieces are essentially non collectible.

Charles III Bust (1773-89)

Eight reales-A very rare coin in all grades. One should settle for a nice evenly worn vg or fine specimen.

Four reales-The same comment as the eight reales.

Two reales-These usually turn up in lower grades. Nice VF and better pieces are very difficult to find.

One real-This coin is more difficult to find than the two reales. Be happy if you find a nice fine coin.

Half real-The same comment as the one real.

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Charles IV legend, bust of Charles III (1789-91)

The eight and four reales are very rare in all grades while the two reales through the quarter real are scarce in all grades.

Charles IIII legend, bust of Charles III (1790-92)

Eight reales-Very rare in all grades.

Four reales-Very rare in all grades.

Two reales-Very scarce in all grades.

One real-Very scarce in all grades.

Half real-This coin is more difficult to find than the one and two reales. Very difficult to find this coin even in the VG grade.

Quarter real-This is usually found in lower grades. A bit easier to find than the two reales through the half real.

Charles III (1791-1808)

Eight reales-A very scarce type. VF pieces turn up from time to time.

Four reales-This is an underrated type. It is usually found in vg to f-vf.

Two reales-A somewhat scarce type, which is almost always found in, grades good to fine.

One real-A bit commoner than the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the one real.

Quarter real (bust)-A very rare coin in all grades.

Quarter real (lion/castle)-Commoner than the bust quarter real but very difficult to find in VF or better condition.

Ferdinand VII legend, bust of Charles III (1808-17)

Four reales-This is a scarce coin which is usually found in low grades

Two reales-This is a very underrated two year type which is very difficult to find better than fine.

One real-A commoner coin than the two reales. There are a couple dates that do turn up in uncirculated condition from time to time. However, when encountered this type is usually in fine or so condition.

Half real- Same comments as the one real.

Quarter real (lion/castle)-This is a scarce type, which is usually found in fine to vf condition.

Ferdinand VII Military Bust (1810-11)

Eight reales-A scarce coin, which can be occasionally found in better grade.

Two reales-Same comments as the eight reales.

Ferdinand VII Normal Bust (1812-17)

Eight reales-A scarce type. This is a rare coin in XF or better condition.

Two reales-This coin is usually found in vg to vf condition and is more common than the eight reales.

Columbia (Minted in Nuevo Reino, the mintmark is NR and Popayan, the mintmark is P)

The Ferdinand VI and Charles III pillar are essentially non-collectible.

Charles III Bust (1772-88)

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Two reales NR mint-This is a very rare type which is seldom offered.

One real NR mint-The commonest coin of the type, although still very scarce. It most likely will take years to find a choice VF or better piece.

One real P mint-This is a very rare one year type which is almost always in low grade and/or holed.

Half real NR mint-This is a very rare type as well which is seldom offered.

Half real P mint-This is another very rare type as well. I do know of two coins of this type which grade XF.

Charles IIII Bust (1792-1804) All are minted in Nuevo Reino (NR mint)

Two reales-This is a very rare type which is seldom offered.

One real-This is a scarce type which is usually found in vg to fine condition.

Half real-Another rare type, which is seldom offered.

Quarter real-The commonest coin of the type. This type is available in grades up to choice VF.

Ferdinand VII legend, bust of Charles IIII (1810-21)

Eight reales P mint-This is a very rare type. For the most part the only collectible date is 1814.

Two reales NR mint-This is a scarce type which is usually found in grades up to fine.

Two reales P mint-This is a bit more difficult to find than the NR mint two reales.

One real NR mint-This is one of the commoner of all Columbian types. However, it is very difficult to find better than XF.

One real P mint-This is a bit scarcer than the NR mint one real.

Half real NR mint-This is the second rarest type coin of this king after the eight reales. This is a very difficult coin to find better than fine.

Half real P mint-This type is almost as rare as the NR mint half real.
Quarter real NR mint-This is a scarce type which usually turns up in grades up to VF.

Quarter real P mint-This is a scarce type which is usually found in grades up to VF.

Guatemala (Minted in Guatemala, the mintmark is G 1772-76, minted in New Guatemala, the mintmark is NG 1777-onward)

The first pillar coinage of Guatemala under King Philip V and King Ferdinand VI was in the form of cobs. Most of these issues come in very low grade, holed, and with a partial date. Unholed specimens that grade f-vf or better and having a full date and mintmark are rare. In 1754 under the reign of Ferdinand VI, the milled coinage of Guatemala began.

Ferdinand VI (1754-60)

Eight reales-This is a somewhat scarce coin. Try to find a nice, well-balanced coin in fine condition.

Four reales-The same comment as the eight reales.

Two reales-This coin when found is usually in vg or so condition and/or holed. It will most likely take a long time to find a nice unholed specimen of this type.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the two reales.

Charles III Pillar (1760-71)

Eight reales-This coin is a bit more common than the Ferdinand VI eight reales. It will take some effort to find a nice VF coin of this type.

Four reales-This is a very scarce coin. This type is usually found in F to VF with some sort of problem.

Two reales-More often than not, this type turns up in low grade and holed. A VF or better unholed coin is rare.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-This is a very difficult coin to find in any grade. An uncirculated coin of this type does exist in a private collection.

Charles III Bust G mint (1772-76)

All denominations of this type and mint are almost always low grade, poorly struck, and/or holed. Anything that grades fine is very scarce and a VF or better coin is rare.

Charles III Bust NG Mint (1777-87)

Eight reales-This coin does turn up from time to time but they are very expensive. Settle for a nice fine or VF.

Four reales-This is a very tough coin to find. A VF or better coin is very scarce.

Two reales-This is a scarce coin to find and is almost always in low grade.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the two reales.

Charles IV legend, Bust of Charles III (1789-90)

Eight reales-This is a very rare and expensive coin. They do turn up from time to time in vf or xf condition.

Four reales-This is a very scarce coin which is usually found in low grade.

Two reales-This is the commonest coin of the type although not readily available. When found this type usually grades fine or so.

One real-This denomination is rarer than the two reales and is usually found in low grade with problems.

Half real-This is a rare little coin which is very difficult to find in VF or better.

Charles IIII (1790-1807)

Eight reales-This is a scarce coin which with patience will reward you with a VF or better coin.

Four reales-This is a scarce type which almost always is found in the fine to vf grade.

Two reales-It should be no problem finding this coin in grades up to VF. Occasionally this type shows up in uncirculated condition due to an old hoard. These high-grade coins do not stay on the market very long.

One real-This coin is a bit scarcer than the two reales. It is a tough coin to find in better than VF grade.

Half real-The same comments as the one real.

Quarter real-This is a scarce little coin. It is very difficult to find this coin in better than VF condition.

Note: The 1790 and 1791 dates of this king come with a larger head than the later dated issues. All denominations are scarce of this

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subtype with the two reales the easiest coin to obtain.

Ferdinand VII legend, bust of Charles III (1808-10)

Eight reales-The same comment as the Charles III eight reales.

Four reales- This is a scarcer coin than the eight reales which is difficult to find better than VF condition

Two reales-This coin is very difficult to in choice VF or better.

One real-This coin is scarcer than the two reales of this type and is very difficult to find better than VF.

Half real-This is the commonest denomination of the type. They do turn up from time to time in uncirculated condition. Settle for a VF coin and hope to upgrade later.

Ferdinand VII Normal Bust (1808-21)

Eight reales-This is a commoner coin than the Ferdinand transitional eight reales. This coin is usually found in fine to vf-xf condition.

Four reales-This is a scarcer coin than the eight reales. It is rare in better than VF condition.

Two reales-This coin is available in all grades. The 1819 date is found quite often in prooflike uncirculated condition due to an old hoard. These coins get taken off the market almost as quickly as they appear.

One real-This coin is available in all grades. Settle for no worse than a vf-xf piece. The 1811 and 1812 dated coins of this type come with a small bust. This subtype is rare. I recall seeing a VG 1812 offered some years back for \$200. I do know of a gem uncirculated 1812.

Half real-The same comment as the one real.

Quarter real-This coin is available in most grades. Settle for no worse than a VF. There are uncirculated coins in existence due to an old hoard.

Mexico (minted in Mexico City, the mintmark is M with an o above the letter M)

By far this is the easiest country in the Latin American series to collect. One could complete 80% of the Mexico series within two years or less if the coins graded good to fine, five years or longer for VF to uncirculated specimens. Keep in mind however that if ten or twenty new collectors started competing for the higher end coins it would take longer to attain the goal of completing the set. Unless a certain denomination of a given type deserves special mention, each type will be commented as a group.

Philip V (1732-50)

All denominations with the exception of the four reales are available in all grades up to VF. XF or better coins with original color are getting very difficult to locate. The half real is the commonest denomination of this king.

Ferdinand VI (1747-60)

The same comments as the Philip V coinage.

Charles III pillar (1760-71)

The same comments as the Philip V coinage.

Charles III Bust Inverted mintmark (1772-73)

These were minted for two years before the error was discovered; all are very scarce and difficult to find in nice VF condition. As with the above types the four reales is the toughest to locate.

Charles III Bust (1773-89)

The same comments as the Philip V coinage, except that the four reales is not as difficult to find as the Philip V four reales.

Charles IV legend, Charles III bust (1789-90)

This is a very scarce type of which you should settle for a fine or vf specimen. The eight reales is your best bet for finding a high end

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specimen.

Charles III legend, Charles III bust (1790)

This is a one year type that is very difficult to find in better than fine condition. The eight reales is the easiest denomination of the type to find in VF or better condition.

Charles IIII Bust (1791-1808)

There is no problem finding a VF or better coin with the exception of the four reales.

Ferdinand VII armored bust (1810-14)

The same comment as the Charles IIII coinage.

Ferdinand VII normal bust (1811-21)

The same comment as the Charles IIII coinage.

Peru (minted in Lima, the mintmark is a monogrammed Lima and in Cuzco, the mintmark is a monogrammed Cuzco)

Ferdinand VI (1752-60)

Eight reales-This coin is available in all grades up to VF.

Four reales-This is the scarcest coin of the type. It is very difficult to find in any grade.

Two reales-This coin is not as scarce as the four reales. When these do come up they are usually in low grade.

One real-A bit commoner than the two reales. These do turn up from time to time in VF or better.

Half real-The same comments as the one real.

Charles III Pillar (1760-72)

Eight reales-This coin is available in all grades up to VF.

Four reales-As with the Ferdinand VI, this is the scarcest coin of the type.

Two reales-This is a scarce coin which is very difficult to find better than VF.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-The same comment as the two reales.

Charles III Bust (1772-89)

Eight reales-This type is available in all grades up to VF.

Four reales-This coin is very scarce and is very tough to find in fine or better.

Two reales-This is the commonest coin of the type although very tough to get better than VF.

One real-This coin is also available in lower grades. Choice VF and better pieces are very hard to come by.

Half real-This denomination catalogs for next to nothing in XF. Very tough to get a choice fine or better coin.

Charles IV legend, Charles III bust (1789-91)

Eight reales-This is a scarce coin which when found grades around VF.

Four reales-This is a very scarce coin and is very difficult to find better than fine.

Two reales-The commonest coin of the type, which is usually found in the vg to f-vf grade.

One real-This is a scarce coin which again is quite difficult to find in better grades.

Half real-The same comment as the one real.

Charles III (1791-1808)

The Charles III series of Peru is a bit complicated as there are three different bust styles. First is the large bust, which is dated 1791-92. Second comes the pointed bust, which is dated 1791-93. Finally comes the normal bust, which is dated 1794-1808. Examples of the three head styles can be found on page 242-43 of Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon de Felipe V a Isabel II, by Msrs. Monteoliva and Segarra.

Eight reales-I have never seen the large bust of this denomination. The pointed bust of this denomination is very rare, while the normal bust is available in all grades up to uncirculated.

Four reales-The large bust is extremely rare in all grades, the pointed bust is rare in all grades, and the normal bust is scarce in all grades. Regarding the normal bust it is very difficult to find better than VF.

Two reales-The large bust is extremely rare in all grades. The pointed bust is scarce in all grades. There is a 1791 dated piece of the pointed bust type, which I suspect is extremely rare. The normal bust is available in all grades up to VF-XF.

One real-The large bust is very rare in all grades, the pointed bust is rare in all grades, and the normal bust is available in lower grades but is very difficult to obtain in better than VF.

Half real-The large and pointed busts are very rare in all grades and the normal bust is a scarce type, which is difficult to find much better than VF.

Quarter real (bust)- I believe all of this type is of the same bust style. This is a difficult coin to find in any grade.

Quarter real (lion/castle)-This is a scarce coin which when found is usually in the f to vf grade range.

Ferdinand VI Imaginary or Indian head bust (1808-11)

Eight reales-This denomination is the easiest to find of this type. It is usually found in the VF to XF grade.

Four reales-This is the rarest denomination of this type as well as the rarest four reales type of all of Peru. When found it is almost always in low grade.

Two reales-This denomination is a bit scarcer than the eight reales. It is almost always found in low grade.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real- This is almost as difficult to find as the four reales.

Ferdinand VI Normal bust Lima mint (1811-26)

Eight reales-This coin is available in all grades up to almost uncirculated.

Four reales-This is a somewhat scarce coin which is usually found in fine to vf condition.

Two reales-This is a common denomination in lower grades. It is very difficult to find better than XF.

One real-The same comment as the two reales.

Half real-This denomination is common in lower grades. It is found from time to time in uncirculated condition. There is a rare subtype of this denomination that is dated 1812-14. This subtype has a very large bust.

Quarter real-The same comment as the two reales.

Ferdinand VI Normal bust Cuzco mint (1824)

Eight reales-This is a scarce coin in all grades.

Two reales-This is a rare coin which seldom appears on the market and when it does it is in low grade.

One real-This is a very scarce coin which also is usually in low grade and holed.

Acknowledgements-I would like to thank Richard August for initiating me into this very interesting series and for his thoughts on this article.

References

1. Standard Catalog of World Coins, by Chester Krause and Clifford Mishler
2. Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon de Felipe V a Isabel II, by Jesus Monteoliva and Fernando Segarra



St. Patrick's Coinage Projects

By John Griffee

There are two projects underway regarding St. Patrick's coinage.

- 1- Stan Stephens (address in front of newsletter under club officers) is preparing a reference listing of all known coins in the hands of US collectors.
- 2- I am working on a book on these coins. It will cover more than you ever wanted to know about St. Patrick's coinage, including early history, facts about Marc Newby, enlargements of all known die varieties (at least 200 or more), and an attribution and rarity guide.

Well-known photographer and copper expert, Bill Noyes, is the official photographer for both of the above projects.

Please help us with these two projects. Let me know if you have any of these coins, even if your collection contains only one of these coins. Stan and I will see how we can have your coin(s) photographed. Bill attends the C4, EAC, and FUN conventions, plus a limited number of additional shows on both the East and West coasts.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John M. Griffee



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Fall, 2001

LEO SHANE

E Mail: Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com



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Wanted: Back copies of the C4 Newsletter. Also wanted are back issues of Coin World, Numismatic News, and any other periodical covering US numismatics.

Contact: Harold Thomas



I desire to correspond with anyone who has an interest in the tokens, medals, dies, craftsmanship, biographies, and other aspects of Boston engraver Joseph H. Merriam and Springfield engraver James A. Bolen. Also, I would like to purchase and would pay full retail price for any Bolen colonial copies of different metals and mulings that I do not presently have. Correspondence is invited.

David Bowers



WANTED TO BUY: Talbot, Allum and Lee 1794 cent, No New York in EF or better condition.

Harrell H. Cherry



Fall, 2001



Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

George Fuld, Sc.D.

Fuld1@home.com



Imitation halfpence coppers (Redbook group I, II and III) in VF to EF condition. All dates wanted.

Please call Min at [REDACTED], or E-mail at Unifilis @aol.com



Wanted, cull to mid-grade:

Virginia halfpennies

Colonial and Continental currency

Also wanted: biographical information on the lesser known signers of Continental and colonial currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have.

David Consolvo

historiccoins@firstva.com



I am currently researching Massachusetts Bay Colony silver coinage. Any information or new thoughts which are not addressed in the basics (Noe, Crosby, Breen, Durst, etc,) would be appreciated. Intermediary die states, contemporary counterfeits, high quality fabrications, witch pieces, etc. Correspondence desired. Also buying low grade, clipped, holed, mutilated, witch pieces. Thank you.

Geoffrey Stevens

Pattinbpt@.mediaone.net

Visit my new web site www.USColonials.com. I will post and describe for free any COLONIAL over \$199-see the web site for the sellers' terms for full details. Contact Mike@USColonials.com or at
Michael Wierzba

Collector wishes to purchase for top dollar: 1793 Liberty Cap cent, AG to F; Immune(Immunis) Columbia; Chalmers shilling; Auctori Plebis; Oak Tree Shilling; Rhode Island Ship Medal; Pitt token. These coins will be cherished. Thank you. Frank Vivalo-

Richard August

Wanted: Rare die varieties or choice grades of: Massachusetts copper and silver, Vermonsts (especially Ryder 30 to 39), Machin Mills 1/2d. Fugios, New Jerseys, Connecticuts; also colonial

Fall, 2001

currency and medals.

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Check page 7 for details.

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